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For Immediate Release/January 29, 2020

Justin Dakota Ayers Sentenced to 28 Years For Intoxication Manslaughter, Intoxication Assault and Leaving the Scene of an Accident

(Austin, TX) Justin Dakota Ayers of Austin has been sentenced to 28 years in prison after pleading guilty to charges in connection with the 2018 death of 24-year-old Brianna Polzine.

The 28-year-old Ayers was sentenced on Friday, January 24th before Judge Brenda Kennedy in 403rd Criminal District Court. Ayers pleaded guilty to Intoxication Manslaughter, Intoxication Assault and Leaving the Scene of an Accident.

In August 2018, Ayers was driving near the intersection of Koenig Lane and Interstate 35. Polzine was a passenger in his car. While Ayers was driving, witnesses say they saw him assault Polzine and then push her out of the car. With Polzine hanging on to the doorframe, Ayers ran a red light dragging Polzine and then slammed into one car and then another. Polzine died at the scene.

Ayers tried to flee the scene but witnesses were able to apprehend and hold him until police arrived. Police determined that Ayers was under the influence of alcohol and illegal drugs.

Ayers pled to 20 years in prison, the maximum penalty for intoxication manslaughter. He also pled to four years in prison for intoxication assault and four years for leaving the scene of an accident. The Vehicular Crimes Special Prosecution Unit of the District Attorney's office is expanding its pursuit of reckless drivers who endanger others on Travis County roadways.

"By prosecuting Mr. Ayers to the fullest extent of the law for his callous attack on Ms. Polzine during his intoxicated state, we were able to secure a plea ensuring that he will not hurt anyone else for a very long time," said Allison Tisdale, Travis County Assistant District Attorney.

Tisdale and Travis County Assistant District Attorney Matthew Foye represented the State in the case against Ayers.

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